(b) the details of the items likely to be exported/imported under these treaties; and

(c) the period by which these treaties would last?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (c) A Statement is annexed.

[*See* Appendix 185 Annexure No. 22]

(b) Actual trade depends on commercial considerations. The treaties generally aim to facilitate trade links between the concerned countries.

Export of Sugar

815. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAL VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of our neighbouring countries have complained that the export of sugar from our country is being delayed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken to avoid the delay and expedite the process of export since the sugar industry is suffering from the glut in sugar production;

(d) whether Government have reduced the import duty to the bare minimum which ultimately affects our sugar industry; and

(e) whether Government would come forward to stop further import of sugar and enhance the import duty of sugar so as to safeguard our industry as well as our labourers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dumping of HR Coils

816. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large quantity of HR Coil/Sheets/Plates and certain other varieties of Steel have been dumped by some countries like Russia, Ukrain, Kazakhastan etc. which had adversely affected our domestic industry and if so, the details thereof and the extent of loss suffered by our Industry as a result thereof; and

(b) whether Government have since imposed anti-dumping duty thereon and if so, the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) A petition was filed before the Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff act and the Rules made thereunder alleging dumping of Hot Rolled Coils/Sheets/Plates/Strips. The Designated Authority conducted an investigation and confirmed that:

(i) Hot rolled coils, plates, sheets, and strips originating in or exported from Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine have been exported to India below their normal value, except for hot rolled coils originating in Kazakhstan, resulting in dumping.

(ii) The domestic industry has suffered material injury.

(iii) the injury has been caused to the domestic industry by the exports of the subject goods origination in or exported from the subject countries.

The Designated Authority recommended imposition of definitive anti-dumping duties. The anti-dumping duty recommended are the difference between amount mentioned in column 3 below and the landed price of imports per MT, subject to a minimum of Rs. 481 per MT.

Sn.	Items Description	Amount
1	2	3
1.	Hot Rolled Coils	14300
2.	Hot Rolled Strips/ Sheets/Plates	15000
3.	Boiler Quality Plates	22000

The Designated Authority does not investigate the quantum of loss suffered to the domestic industry as a result of such dumping.

(b) The Central Government has, consequent upon the recommendations of the Designated Authority, imposed ant-dumping duties on the imports of said products, except for the recommendations with regard to the minimum duty of Rs. 481 per MT recommended by the Designated Authority.

Installed capacity of automobile industry

817. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI C. O. POULOSE:

Will The Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the utilised capacity of all automobile manufacturing companies have declined considerably in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the installed capacity and utilised capacity during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for less utilisation of the capacity; and

(d) the total investment affected due to non-utilisation of the installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir. The capacity utilisation of four wheelers in automobile sector has gone down from 74% in 1996-97 to 54% in 1997-98.

(b) The installed capacity and rate of capacity utilisation in the automobile sector in the last three years has been as under:—

	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
	Installed capacity	% of capacity utilisation	Installed capacity	% of capacity utilisation	Installed capacity	% of capacity utilisation
Four wheelers	9,18,000	74%	10,72,000	74%	12,96,000	54%
Two & Three wheelers	35,52,000	80%	42,27,000	76%	45,92,000	72%

(c) Decline in capacity utilization is attributed to sluggish demand, slump in the economy as also the industry as a whole and international recessionary trend. Further, with liberalisation, several manufacturers have started building up excess capacities which also contributed to the under-utilisation of capacity.

(d) No official estimation has been made of the investment affected due to non-utilisation of installed capacity.

Exclusive market rights to other Countries

818. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are necessarily bound to accept the exclusive market rights to other countries immediately;

(b) whether Government will have to change the patent law immediately from the process to product basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY